

Remarks:

Claims 14-25 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-13 have previously been canceled. By this amendment, claims 14, 15, 16, 20 and 25 are amended and new claim 26 has been added. Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 15, 16, 20 and 25 have been amended for consistency with claim 14.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,778,000 to Mills. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For Mills to anticipate these claims, each and every limitation in the claims must be found in Mills. Since such is not the case, the anticipation rejection must fail.

Mills discloses a hinge (12), which houses conductive elements that route electrical current from a refrigerator cabinet (10) to a refrigerator door (11). The hinge (12) comprises two portions, a hinge butt (13) and a hinge leaf (14), that are constructed from an electrical insulating material, rendering the hinge (12) incapable of conducting electricity. The hinge butt (13) and hinge leaf (14) mount to the cabinet (10) and door (11), respectively, by bolts (30, 35, 64, 68). Electrical current is routed through the hinge butt and leaf, from bolts (30, 35) of the hinge butt (13) to bolts (64, 68) of the hinge leaf (14), by electrically conductive elements coupled between the hinge butt bolts (30, 35) and hinge leaf bolts (64, 68). These electrically conductive elements include resilient members (74, 78), pins (55, 58), and conductors (67, 72) that extend through the hinge (12).

Claim 14 requires that a hinge for a refrigerator comprise an electrically conductive first hinge plate mounted to a refrigerator cabinet and electrically coupled to a first conductor connected to a source of electricity, an electrically conductive second hinge plate mounted to a refrigerator door and electrically coupled to a second conductor

that supplies power to a user device on the door, wherein the first and second hinge plates are electrically coupled to define an electrically conductive path from the first conductor to the first hinge plate to the second hinge plate to the second conductor to supply power from the source of electricity to the user device. Mills does not disclose electrically conductive hinge plates or an electrically conductive path from a first conductor to a first hinge plate to a second hinge plate to a second conductor to supply power from a source of electricity to a user device on a refrigerator door. In fact, Mills specifically discloses that the hinge butt and hinge leaf are constructed from an electrical insulating material. Therefore, Mills does not anticipate claim 14 and claim 14 is patentable over Mills. Since claims 15-26 depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, claims 15-26 are likewise patentable.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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